

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A joint compound composition comprising:

- a) 50 to 60% of calcium sulphate hemihydrate;
- b) 5 to 15% of an organic binder in powder form; and
- c) 0.05 to 0.2% of a water repellent selected from the group consisting of

oleic acid, stearic acid and their alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salt.

15. (Previously Presented) The joint compound composition according to Claim 14, which further includes:

- d) 1 to 10% of a lightening agent.

16. (Previously Presented) The joint compound composition according to Claim 14, wherein the composition comprises 5 to 10% of the organic binder; 0.07 to 0.15% of the water repellent; and 3 to 7% of a lightening agent.

17. (Previously Presented) The joint compound composition according to Claim 14, wherein the calcium sulphate hemihydrate is of the alpha form.

18. (Previously Presented) The joint compound composition according to Claim 14, wherein the organic binder is selected from the group consisting of copolymers of vinyl esters and of ethylene monomers, polyacrylics, vinyl acetate/acrylic copolymers, styrene/acrylic and styrene/butadiene copolymers, vinyl acetate/vinyl versatate/acrylic and vinyl acetate/vinyl versatate/vinyl maleate terpolymers, acrylic terpolymers and blends thereof.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The joint compound composition according to Claim 15, wherein the lightening agent is perlite.

22. (Previously Presented) The joint compound composition according to Claim 15, wherein the lightening agent is non-water-repellent expanded perlite.

23. (Previously Presented) The joint compound composition according to Claim 14, wherein the composition is in the form of a powder.

24. (Previously Presented) The joint compound composition according to Claim 14, wherein the composition is in the form of a powder composed of particles having a diameter of at most 200 microns.

25-44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously Presented) The joint compound composition according to Claim 14, wherein the water repellent is selected from the group consisting of oleic acid and its alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salt.